Pending accident claims

3485. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accident claims pending as on 1st December, 2005 with each of the Zonal Railway Claims Tribunals;

(b) the number out of them pending for over one year after completion of all formalities by the claimants, zone-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in the disposal of such claims; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken for their final disposal expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b)

Name of the Railway Claims Tribunal	No. of claims pending for train accidents as on 1.12.2005 under Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989	Cases over one year old
1	2	3
Delhi	7	2
Lucknow	24	9
Chandigarh	7	7
Gorakhpur	43	25
Jaipur	1	0
Chennai	2	2
Ernakulam	10	7
Secunderabad	45	8
Bangalore	45	31
Calcutta	12	6
Guwahati	0	0
Patna	15	6
Bhubaneswar	0	0
Mumbai	21	8

1	2	3
Nagpur	0	0
Bhopal	4	3
Ahmedabad	42	2
Ghaziabad	6	6
TOTAL	284	122

(c) (i) Adjournment sought by the Applicant/their Counsel for producing evidence etc.

(ii) Transfer of claims cases from one Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) Bench to the other, sought by the claimants.

(iii) Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants.

(d) Following steps have been taken for expeditious disposal of accident claims cases.

(i) Instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways that as soon as a passenger train accident or untoward incident takes place, Railway administration obtains all particulars of injured and killed, sends claim application forms to claimants, and makes the record available to the concerned Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal. When claims are filed and come up for hearing, Railways give all possible assistance to the Tribunal for their speedy settlement.

(ii) Written statements are filed by the Railways in such cases within one month of receipt of notice from Railway Claims Tribunal.

(iii) After the decreetal amount of claim has been sanctioned, railway administration ensures that cheques are issued and dispatched within a period of 15 days, without prior finance concurrence.

Quality of food served in southbound trains

3486. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of food served in southbound trains is below standard;